

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments, at least for purposes of appeal, is respectfully requested.

Claim 13 has been cancelled and claim 14 revised to depend from claim 16. Claim 16 as presented includes the limitation of claim 13. Claim 16 has also been revised to define the invention with additional clarity. The revisions do not raise new issues that would require further consideration or search. Indeed the amendment addresses certain of the Examiner concerns set forth in the rejection under 35 USC 112, first paragraph.

Claim 17 has been revised to make the language used more consistent with that of the disclosure at page 30, line 22. Claim 19 has been revised to replace the term "ex vivo" with "in vitro" which, as the Examiner appreciates, is fully supported by the disclosure. The foregoing amendments are believed to meet fully the Examiner's objection under 35 USC 132 and rejection under 35 USC 112, first paragraph.

Should the Examiner enter the foregoing claim revisions, the claims on Appeal would be those set forth in the attached

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Appendix which should be substituted for that filed with the Appeal Brief.

This application is submitted to be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

8. A method of inhibiting HIV infection of cells susceptible to HIV infection comprising contacting said cells with an amount of an agent that inhibits CD44-facilitated entry of HIV into said cells sufficient to effect said inhibition.

9. The method according to claim 8 wherein said agent is selected from the group consisting of an anti-CD44 antibody, soluble CD44, CD44 oligopeptides and hyaluronate.

11. The method according to claim 16 wherein the agent is anti-CD44 antibody A3D8 or A1G3.

14. The method according to claim 16 wherein said phagocyte is a human monocyte.

15. The method according to claim 16 wherein said infection is HIV-1 infection.

16. A method of inhibiting CD44-facilitated HIV infection of a mononuclear phagocyte susceptible to infection with a strain of HIV comprising contacting said mononuclear phagocyte with an

amount of an anti-CD44 antibody sufficient to bind to CD44 molecules present on the surface of said mononuclear phagocyte and thereby inhibit said CD44-facilitated infection of said mononuclear phagocyte by said strain of a HIV.

17. The method according to claim 16 wherein said mononuclear phagocytes are vaginal cells.

18. The method according to claim 16 wherein said contacting is effected by topical administration.

19. The method according to claim 16 wherein said cells are *in vitro* mononuclear phagocytes.